



Camping

The Shawnee National Forest offers a variety of camping experiences ranging from primitive backpacking to developed campgrounds equipped with showers and electrical sites. Most campgrounds and picnic areas are located near lakes or areas of exceptional beauty, where a variety of recreational opportunities, like hiking, fishing, and sight seeing, can be found nearby.



Johnson Creek, Pounds Hollow and Lake Glendale Recreation Areas offer lakeside settings. Oak Point Campground in Lake Glendale Recreation Area is the only campground with electrical sites, water, dump station, shower house, and group camping. Campgrounds that can accommodate RVs up to 40 feet are Johnson Creek Group Campground, Oak Point and Camp Cadiz. Equestrian camping is allowed at Johnson Creek and Camp Cadiz campgrounds.

Campsites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. We do not accept reservations.

The majority of the campgrounds are open from April 1st through Dec. 15th, although there are some exceptions; see our developed recreation site handout for site fees and specific dates of operation. There is a maximum of eight individuals and two vehicles allowed per single campsite. Campers are limited to a maximum of 14 days continuous use.

The following regulations apply in Campgrounds where a fee is charged:

- Parking on the grass and camping outside the designated campsite is prohibited.
- Leaving your campsite unoccupied during the first night after equipment is set-up or leaving equipment unattended for more than 24 hours thereafter is prohibited. Check out time is 2:00 p.m.
- Keep campfires contained in the fire rings provided at each campsite.
- Cutting of live trees, shrubs and other vegetation is prohibited.
- Quiet hours are in effect from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Weapons, firearms and fireworks are not to be discharged in campgrounds or picnic areas.
- Pets are welcome, but must be leashed and are not allowed in designated swimming areas.

Primitive Camping

Primitive camping is allowed on National Forest land outside the boundaries of developed campgrounds and picnic areas. Primitive camping is NOT allowed within designated Natural Areas, Research Natural Areas or within 150 feet of a lake or stream. There is no fee for primitive camping in the general forest areas, however visitors are limited to camping a maximum of 14-days continuous stay.



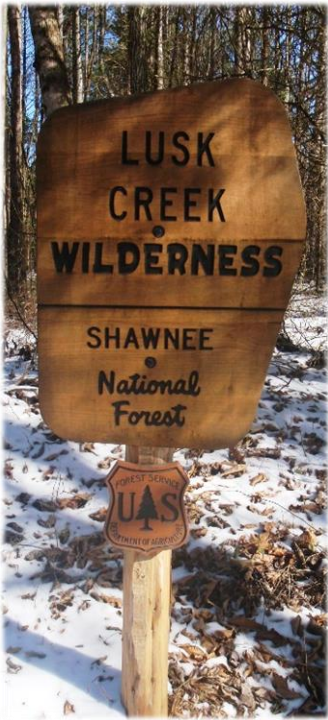
Picnicking

Picnic areas are located adjacent to nearly every campground, as well as several other locations within the Shawnee National Forest. They are a great place to relax, take a walk, nature watch or to simply enjoy the outdoors. All picnic grounds are closed from dusk to dawn. Many picnic areas accommodate large groups, but we do not accept reservations. Fire grills, picnic tables, and toilet facilities are provided. Pets are welcome but must be leashed.

For your safety, service, and convenience, the developed recreation areas are regularly patrolled by Forest employees and law enforcement officers. While enjoying the outdoors we encourage visitors to practice the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. For more information visit: www.lnt.org.

Designated Wilderness

Designated in 1990, the Shawnee National Forest possesses a total of seven Wildernesses: *Clear Springs, Bald Knob, Panther Den, Bay Creek, Burden Falls, Lusk Creek and Garden of the Gods*. Wildernesses are unique areas offering backcountry experiences and usually more solitude. Mechanical and motorized vehicles and equipment are not permitted (this includes bicycles). Wheelchairs are permitted. Plants and soil on rock faces are especially vulnerable to damage. Please stay on the trail. No special permits are required to enter or camp in the Wildernesses, but visitors should follow the guidelines below.



Help protect the natural resources:

- Use existing, established camp areas away from trails, water, and bluff tops to lessen your camping impacts.
- Opt not to build campfires and enjoy nature’s nighttime sights and sounds.
- If you must build a campfire, lessen the impacts by using existing fire rings and only dead and down firewood.
- Pack-it-in; Pack-it-out; don’t burn your trash. Bury human waste 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 100 feet from campsites, trails, and water sources.
- When in designated wilderness, keep group size to 10 people or less.
- No Camping with stock animals is allowed within Lusk Creek, Bay Creek, or Garden of the Gods Wildernesses.

Maps

We recommend obtaining topographical maps prior to entering Wilderness. Maps can be purchased at any Shawnee National Forest office or by mail. Call to request an order form or visit our website. Shipping fees apply when ordering by mail.

Know Before You Go



Shawnee National Forest

Shawnee National Forest offices are closed on federal holidays.
www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee

Shawnee National Forest Headquarters

Open M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm
50 HWY 145 South
Harrisburg, IL 62946
(800) 699-6637
(618) 253-7114

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District

Closed Monday
Open T-F 8:00am to 3:30pm
521 N. Main St.
Jonesboro, IL 62952
(618) 833-8576

Hidden Springs Ranger District

Open M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm
602 North 1st Street
Route 45 North
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2111

- ✓ Plan ahead and prepare accordingly.
- ✓ Let someone know your travel plans.
- ✓ Be aware of hunting seasons during your visit.
- ✓ Be aware of changing weather conditions.
- ✓ Carry plenty of water or boil/treat water before drinking.
- ✓ Bugs and poison ivy are widespread; use protective spray or ointments and wash skin and clothing.
- ✓ Venomous snakes occur in southern Illinois; be cautious, watch where you step or place your hands.
- ✓ Ticks and other insects are abundant; bug repellent is recommended.
- ✓ Cell phone reception may be weak or non-existent in many parts of the Shawnee National Forest.
- ✓ Use a map & compass or GPS device.
- ✓ Practice the Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. For more information visit: www.lnt.org



Emergencies

Please be aware, as a visitor you could face inherent risks of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications, especially in remote areas of the Shawnee National Forest. Search and rescue may not be as rapid as expected. For more information contact us or visit our website to obtain the Forest Emergency & Safety Brochure.